

## ADVANCED TRAINING HELD FOR PARENT CHILD INTERACTIVE THERAPY By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director



On September 27, 2012, LACDMH Children's System of Care Bureau, First Five LA, and the University of California at Davis, implemented the first Advanced PCIT Training. The training took place at First Five LA, and was attended by 97 participants. This initial training will increase the number of PCIT certified clinicians and trainers throughout LA County. Future trainings with UC Davis will continue to increase the number of certified PCIT clinician's, thus increasing LACDMH ability to best serve the largest number of 2-5 year olds and their family members. This PCIT training is an intensive program that can include both classroom and field learning and can range from 4-6 months in duration.

This was the first PCIT Advanced Training for the strategic partnership. The training was delivered by the University of California Davis PCIT Training Center. The training was energetic and addressed advanced topics in PCIT with the purpose of increasing agencies training capacity to meet the strategic partnerships goal of "to ensure children are safe from abuse and neglect by teaching parents effective strategies to improve behaviors through positive, nurturing interactions."

Bryan Mershon, Ph.D., Children's Deputy Director LACDMH Children's System of Care, welcomed everyone to the first advanced PCIT training. He expressed appreciation to First Five LA and the UC Davis PCIT trainers for their continued collaboration with LACDMH for the next five years of this grant. LACDMH District Chief Sam Chan and Bryan noted the significant part that PCIT will play in the lives of many children and families in Los Angeles County.



The training provided information that will ensure that all PCIT therapists have the same information about the therapy including: practices, structure behind treatment, intake assessment, teaching and coaching.

First Five LA has provided LACDMH with a grant of \$17 million to increase the use of PCIT, an evidence-based caregiver-child therapy that addresses First Five's goal "to ensure children are safe from abuse and neglect by teaching parents effective strategies to improve behaviors through positive, nurturing interactions." PCIT is proven effective by over 100 research studies. In addition to English, PCIT can be provided in Spanish and Chinese.

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health would like to extend gratitude to Chairman Mark Ridley Thomas for his dedication to the development of the strategic partnership between First Five LA and LACDMH which over the next five years will expand Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) for children aged 2-5 in Los Angeles County.

